



Corps Chief's Message

By COL Rebecca S. Hooper
Chief, SP Corps

The Doctor and the Plumber

I attended the PA graduation at Fort Hood recently. It was a wonderful ceremony – very professionally done. The guest speaker was MAJ Joseph M. Endrizzi, a physician at Darnall Army Community Hospital. After making a rather humorous and predictable comparison between his profession (urologist) and his grandfather's (plumber), his remarks focused on the appropriate use of tools in both occupations. After all, he said, "If you view the world as a nail, the only tool you will ever need is a hammer".

His message was simple but elegant. He told the graduates that during their training, they had received the instructions to a very large number of tools necessary to perform their profession. They had practiced them all and had demonstrated their competency. They were now going off to assignments where they will be the only ones who know how to use these special tools like clinical reasoning, lab reports, and diagnostic acumen. He told them the key to their success in the future would be in making sure that they remember to use all the tools they have been given.

This brief message to the graduates resonated with me and I think it is a lesson for all of us. As health care professionals and Army officers, we have been given many tools to do our daily work. At times, we all tend to take out the same tool out of our kit bag and use it over and over

again, whether that tool is a way of thinking or a specialized piece of equipment. What some of us forget from time to time is that there are some intellectual, informational, and interpersonal tools in our bag that although they are extremely valuable, we have not used them for a long time. At some point of our training and our practice, we knew how to use all of them. Out of habit we tend to use that which is known, that which is comfortable.

I'd like to challenge you to take some time in the near future to pull out your professional and your military kit bags and review some of those tools you haven't used in a while. Take the time to seriously assess how well you are doing. Do your own "utilization review" to see if you are staying professionally current. Make sure to allow yourself to discover new tools or new ways of using the old ones. Perhaps all you will need to do is to review the instruction sheet. Perhaps you will need to take a review course or spend some time in the library.

Whatever you discover, you will do yourself, your patients, and your career a favor.

***Soldiers First...
Professionals Always***

Inside this issue:

PERSCOM	3
Adventures in Egypt	6
Tri-service Efforts Leads to Valuable Training in Honduras	9
SP's in the News	11
SP Chief's, Award of Excellence Recipients	15

Occupational Therapy Section

By LTC Karen Cozean
Chief, Occupational Therapy Section

Happy New Year to you and your families! I hope that you had some time to relax over the holidays and that 2002 is off to a good start for each of you. I believe 2002 will be an exciting year for OT. Each day I hear about the wonderful things you are doing in your areas of responsibilities. I thank you for the effort you put forth to provide your customers a quality product!

I'd like to thank the Walter Reed staff for getting the New Year off to a great start by hosting an outstanding conference on the Level I, Allen Cognitive Levels. LT Stange as project officer, and the OT staff, did an excellent job setting the stage for a successful course. There were 20 military participants, to include 2 officers from the 113th Med. Co. CSC who saw the course posted on the SP Home page. I think this was a great turnout for a regional conference and I encourage other regions to consider doing something similar. Think about all the knowledge you have within each region. It's a great way to foster professional development and increase your networking together.

Claudia Allen and Ivelisse Lazzarini are inspirational speakers and their two-day course provided an overview on performing the ACL screen, analyzing the cognitive performance modes, and application of the Allen Battery in different settings. I think the ACL has tremendous potential for our daily practice and I know some of you are using it. I look forward to further dialogue with you on how you are incorporating the ACL into your patient care. If you are going to the AOTA National Conference in Miami this year, both Claudia and Ivelisse will be presenting and you will not be disappointed if you go to hear them speak.

Educational Opportunities

Speaking of excellent courses, I encourage you to submit your 3838s for the upcoming:

1. 18 – 22 Mar 02 **Burn/Trauma Course at ISR.** LT(P) Chapman is the project officer and he has arranged for subject matter experts to present on amputee care and rehabilitation at this year's conference to meet our recent training needs for this patient population. So get your 3838's in by **1 Feb 02** to LTC Kuwamoto at DHET. (see DHET section)
2. 13 – 24 May 02 **Management of Combat Stress Casualties Course at Camp Bullis.** MAJ Harrison-Weaver is the project officer and she and MAJ Gerardi are planning another great course. Participants will have the opportunity to become CISM certified.

3. 19 – 30 Aug 02 **Eval/Tx of UE Conditions For Occupational Therapists at Ft. Bragg.** LTC Karoline Harvey is the project officer. Having Dr. Espinosa, an Orthopaedic surgeon teach for the two weeks, in conjunction with the WAMC staff, makes for a stimulating and challenging course.

4. Remember to enroll in Knowledge Exchange online. MAJ Kent has posted the directions on how to register when you go to this site. We have put JCAHO lessons learned under the OT section and we are beginning an OT reference library. This site is presently being utilized for our working group, Project Paratus, and in the future will be where we will post SOPs, best practice protocols, etc. The address is KE.army.mil/sp

5. Last, but not least, you have a great opportunity for completing a Masters with USUHS/CHPPM with emphasis in public health or a Masters in OT with concentration in Psychiatry. Guidance for submitting to the 02 board can be found on the SP web page under Links, select DHET, then SP Corps. Applications must be submitted by **1 April**.

Update on the Behavioral Health Reengineering Initiative (BHRI)

Behavioral Health is changing every aspect of the way business is performed in order to be responsive to customer needs. The move is away from tertiary care to early intervention with the goal of reducing the attrition rate of our soldiers. This is an important mission and is also an initiative of TSG. Mental Health services are streamlining and integrating their processes. In order to accomplish this, four working groups have been formed: the Policy work-group, the Education work-group, the Automation work-group and the Clinical Services work-group. OT has representation in each work-group. On December 17 – 18 members of the behavioral mental health team met to continue to bring together ideas and update each working group. I thank COL Rice and CPT Newton in helping me represent OT's interests during this December meeting. The results of each working group are sent to our Project Paratus working group members to keep us on track with the changes occurring. CPT Newton provided an excellent summary of this meeting and I will share parts of her summary with you to bring you up to date on the goals of each working group.

The automation work-group goals are to develop a documentation and automation support system for all behavior health (BH) specialties. This would be used to document clinical practice, workload, provide customer service to Commanders and other beneficiaries, 91X and 91WN3 education, and support BH related data analysis. A field deployable system will also be developed. LTC Howard is the OT representative for this working-group.

(Continued on page 12)

PERSCOM

By COL Bonnie De Mars
PERSCOM, SP Corps

The SP Captain's Board will soon be upon us and I mean soon!!! The FY 02 Captain's board will be conducted from 5-15 March 02. This is a month earlier than it has been in previous years. March is right around the corner!!

Although getting one's record up to date is a personal responsibility, I would ask that supervisors out there lending a helping hand to our young officers.

The information below is especially directed to our *First Lieutenants* and their *supervisors*, however, the information is helpful to all officers going before a promotion board. The checklist below will let you gauge your degree of readiness for this board. Get your record in order NOW!!!

- ___ Order Fiche from offrcds@hoffman.army.mil **NOW**
- ___ Ensure you have a 120 day OER and other OER's in your record
- ___ Ensure transcripts are on your fiche and other awards/badges
- ___ ORB
 - ___ Need to Update Personal Information on ORB
 - ___ Work through your local MILPO routinely and early to maintain your record
- ___ Accuracy of address, ribbons, skill badges, (provide copies to MILPO so info can be put on fiche)
- ___ Check Military Education Level (MEL)
- ___ Check Civilian Education Level (CEL)
- ___ Assignment History--be sure it is listed especially current assignment (pay attention to duty title)
- ___ *Licensure or Certification* (Section X)
 - Health practitioner license should list the state and expiration date. PA's must hold national certification. ALL SP officers must be licensed or certified.
- ___ Verify your ORB information for accuracy and sign ORB one month before board (a signed ORB sends the Board members a message that you are taking responsibility and are motivated. If a signed ORB contains inaccurate data and you sign it--this sends a bad message)
- ___ Photo
 - ___ Should be current (as a 1LT)
 - ___ Correct fit of Uniform (make sure it is pressed)
- ___ Females encouraged to wear skirt
- ___ Hints at Weight
- ___ Hair: females: not on collar or eyebrows and males: proper length & cut mustache
- ___ OER
 - ___ Narratives should emphasize PERFORMANCE and POTENTIAL, limit clinical jargon. Describe what you do in more generic terms so that non-medical board members

can understand. More is not necessarily better. It is not necessary to fill up all the space in either the rater or senior rater sections. *Rather*, be succinct and 'on the money' with your comments. Good points often are missed in lengthy narratives!!

Remember:

-It is the "Whole Record Concept" **Performance Carries Most Weight**

-Prepare Early - Avoid FEDEX-especially now, mail delivery is not timely

-Read Board Msg Carefully -90 days

-Your record is your "**handshake**" to the board members.

You want to be sure that the hand they are shaking is that of an officer who is motivated, who takes things seriously and who should be promoted. This is conveyed when the information in your record is accurate **and** current!!

Thanks for your attention. I hope you found this information useful. Let me know of other topics you would like to hear about in future updates.



Happy 55th Birthday
Army Medical Specialist Corps
16 April 1947

We would like to know if you are celebrating the AMSC birthday in the month of April. Send pictures, newspaper articles, etc. Contact MAJ Woods at 210-221-8306/DSN 471 or email at yvette.woods@cen.amedd.army.mil

Dietitian Section

By COL Brenda J. Forman
Chief, Dietitian Section

Greetings,

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday, and got some rest and relaxation. Lots going on in Army Dietetics.. I will try to articulate some of the hot issues here and of course will continue to communicate with you through my monthly "Chief Dietitians" updates.

New Registered Dietitians: Congratulations are in order for 10 new Registered Dietitians – graduates of Dietetic Internship Class of 2001. According to MAJ Sweet, we've had 100% pass rate for 10 consecutive years. Kudos to the new graduates, instructors, and preceptors at both internship sites and MEDDAC affiliations.. The new RD's are: 2LT Angela Briscoe, 2LT Emily Tarleton, 2LT Julie Hess, 2LT Michael Trust, 2LT Jason Woodward, 2LT Kristin Hart, 2LT Dara Ono, 2LT Aaron Crombie, 2LT Tamrin Olson, and 2LT Ashley Newhouse.

Deployments: MAJ Joanna Reagan continues to represent Army Dietitians well as a vital member of SFOR 10 in Bosnia. Her updates are so refreshing to read, as she articulates her involvement in many important aspects of the medical mission. Her involvement ranges from providing Medical Nutrition Therapy to patients (over 350 patients encounters since she arrived in country in September) to organizing graduate medical education programs for the medical and nursing staff. She is aggressively educating soldiers about dietary supplements, and ICW with the Division Surgeon, has made strides in getting Ephedra banned from the Post Exchange. Additionally, she organized a large Christmas Party for the children at the orphanage – which included gifts from many of you. My kudos to MAJ Reagan for a job well done. She is more than 50% finished with her rotation and is paving the way for MAJ Sarah Spielman who should arrive in March 02.

1LT (P) Stavinoha and several 91M's had a successful rotation to Egypt as a part of Operation Bright Star and she has included an update in this edition of the Medallion. Kudos to 1LT Stavinoha and staff for a job well done!!

CPT Davison represented us well as at JRTC in November where she and several 91M's were for 30 days as PROFIS to the 10th CSH. Good job CPT Davison and 91M's!!

CPT Ronna Winn has also included an update from her experiences in Honduras in November where she accompanied MAJ Terri Kemmer and MAJ Gielser.

ADA Certification in Weight Management: I have articulated to MTF Chiefs my desire for at least one RD from each of our 29 hospitals or clinics to obtain certification in Weight Management – a program sponsored by our professional organization. The web site for more info is: <http://www.cdrnet.org/PDFs/wtmgmtbrocrev3.pdf> You may register by phone at 1-800-877-

1600, ext 5500.

Health Promotion Director's Certification Training Course:

Date: 11 – 15 March 2002 – Holiday Inn Timonium, Maryland. Course is open to all Army personnel (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, and Civilian). For more information check the CHPPM Training Office Website:
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/trng/datepage.htm>

National Nutrition Month: March is right around the corner and I am sure many of you are already making plans to enhance Nutrition Awareness during this month. Looking forward to hearing about your initiatives. MAJ Corum has posted the DOD Nutrition Month Resource Packet to the CHPPM website
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhwp>

CALL For POSTERS FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION CONFERENCE: It's that time again. If you check your January issue of JADA, you will find all of the details. Bottom Line: Abstracts must be post marked NLT 5 April 2002. This is a perfect opportunity to showcase all of the great initiatives we are working on in Army Dietetics. I am strongly encouraging as many of you as possible to submit abstracts to ADA for consideration. This is great public relations for Army Dietetics, and a wonderful learning opportunity. As an incentive, this year we are going to feature and awards program for the Poster Sessions. Those presenting at the Food and Nutrition Conference will also present their posters at the DOD Nutrition Symposium. Posters will be judged and prizes awarded.

2002 ADA/ADAF Award Nominations: ADA is now accepting nominations for 2002 Awards. These include Awards for Excellence in Practice as well as Honorary Awards for contributions made to dietetics. There are over 20 award categories. Please check the ADA website – members only section for more information about these awards and considering nominating deserving members of your staff. The packets must be received NLT 1 March 2002. www.eatright.org

Research Grants: Several Army Dietitians recently received grants for research or new initiatives. According to **LTC Brenda Ellison**, the Nutrition Care Branch, AMEDD Center and School, received 2 grants – one for the HPPI (Health Promotion and Prevention Initiatives) for \$14.5 K and another from TRADOC for distance learning for 91M coursework for \$180K. **MAJ Heidi Kaufman** was funded through HPPI to conduct a study on "Increasing Awareness and Options to Dietary Supplements".

MAJ Danny Jaghab, Ft Belvoir MEDDAC, was funded to conduct a study titled: "The use of a Hand Held Appliance to Facilitate Weight Loss and Behavior Change in and Active duty Population"

Nutrition Care Branch News: LTC Brenda Ellison reports that her staff has almost completed a distance learning product for the

(Continued on page 5)

Dietitian Section (con't)

(Continued from page 4)

91M MOS. This CD-ROM was an initiative that COL Robin Tefft began prior to her departure. It will replace the 91M10(RC) correspondence course, Phase I and can also serve as a great sustainment tool for the MOS. The NCB is querying the field for support and ideas on the long-standing DTR issue. If you have anything to contribute or wish to discuss related to this topic, please call LTC Brenda Ellison at (210) 221-3466/3284. Supervisors and graduates of BNCOC Technical Track will receive letters from the branch announcing their graduates' completion and the specific training they received. This is a step to keep the field informed on our training and to continue to improve the training based on the field's needs.

NMIS Survey: In the next couple of weeks, you will receive a short survey from CPT Coakley for feedback regarding NMIS. Please take a moment to complete the survey and provide your honest feedback. We are conducting the survey DOD wide. Your feedback will help us make some critical decisions on the future of NMIS or other Management Information Systems to support our mission.

Nutrition Facilities Renewal, Renovation and Other News

MAJ Guy Desmond reports that capital investments in Nutrition Care Divisions are beginning in earnest this New Year. WRAMC has been awarded a \$7.2M project to renovate the entire NCD food production area. The project is an 8-phase project that is projected to be completed within 2 years. The 121st General Hospital, South Korea has begun construction on a new hospital building that will include a \$1.5M state to the art Nutrition Care Division. Projected completion time is approximately 2004. A complete renovation is

scheduled to begin fall 2002 in Heidelberg Germany. The first phase of the project, which was a fully renovated basement to include new walk-in refrigeration and high-density shelving, was completed this fall at approximately \$150K. Future projects include Wurzburg NCD (renovation), Fort Belvoir Hospital (new construction) and Bassett Army Community Hospital (new construction).

LTC Kostner reports that BAMC NCD started a major renovation project in June. They continued to serve patients and 80% of the usual dining facility customers from three different Grab and Go locations. Despite all of the changes, satisfaction survey results exceeded the MEDCOM dining facility benchmarks for food quality overall service, courteousness, and hot temperatures. The new BAMC dining room opened on 20 December at the dinner meal and the grand opening and ribbon cutting is planned for 31 January 02.

COL Hoedebecke, C, NCD at WRAMC noted they recently opened two satellite operations to provide patrons variety, and easier access at the lunch meal. Walt's Express is a grab'n'go shop around the corner from the Dining Facility that offers a wide assortment of sandwiches (hot & cold), packaged salads, pizza, wraps, and beverages for a quick and easy meal without the wait. The sandwich bar, located in the old Grab & Go area, provides made to order sandwiches on specialty breads, soups and side salads for yet another alternative to the main line. Walt's Express, opened 1010- 1330 hours, is averaging 600 customers a day and has been very effective in helping

(Continued on page 10)

Physical Therapist Section

*By COL Charles R. Scoville
Chief, Physical Therapist Section*

Just a quick update, much has changed in the past few months and while a number of our therapists have been deployed we are all actively involved in maintaining Army readiness.

A number of clinics have been actively involved in preparing for the care of patients sustaining traumatic amputations. On 10-12 December, WRAMC hosted an "Integrated Approach to Lower Extremity Prosthetics and Amputee Care". The session was attended by 48 people from 14 different facilities, and included 30 Physical Therapists, 9 Physical Therapist Assistants, PM&R Physicians, 2 Occupational Therapists, and 5 Nurses.

Another milestone was reached in our training programs. In December the first DScPT degrees were awarded. Recipients included graduates from this year's Sports Residency program, Scott R. Jonson, LCDR, (USN); MAJ Richard E. Baxter; and LTC Randy A. Green, (AF); and previous graduates of

the Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency who successfully completed oral defense of their Doctoral research projects. These graduates were: MAJ Bob Matekel; MAJ Dan Rendeiro; MAJ John Stang; MAJ Matt Garber; LT Jake Magel (PHS); Capt Julie Whitman (AF); and Mr. Mike Ryder (USAR). Congratulations to all.

The ASAM will begin a trial based upon population in April. This is a shift from workload based staffing, and will reflect the importance of our role in injury prevention and health promotion activities.

VTCs are scheduled for 21 May 1530-1700 ET; 14 Aug 1400-1530 ET; and 19 Nov 1530-1700 EST.

Looking forward to seeing all that can attend the Combined Section's Meeting, and seeing all of the presentations that will be presented by our therapists.

Adventures in Egypt

*By CPT Trisha Stavinoha
OIC, NCD, 14th Field Hospital*

I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 01/02 Bright Star exercise in Egypt. Despite the tension and threat level around the world at that time, we arrived safely and came home safely. The overall mission for Nutrition Care was to provide high quality, nutritious meals to soldiers supported by the 14th Field Hospital, ensure patients and staff with special nutrition needs were properly cared for, provide nutrition education and diet counseling to staff and patients, maintain a sanitary dining facility, and keep the troops happy. I am proud to say we stayed true to our mission throughout the deployment and despite the flies and sand, we had an outstanding dining tent!

We left for Ft. Benning 16 September for pre-deployment training, departed Ft. Benning 21 September and arrived in Cairo, Egypt 22 September. Redeployment began 5 November; however, the main body left 16 November and arrived at Ft. Benning 17 November, where we were released to return home hours after arrival.

Operation Bright Star takes place every two years and planning begins two years in advance. Bright Star is the largest, most significant coalition military exercise Central Command has conducted. This was not an exercise for the 14th Field Hospital, as we were serving a real mission attending to the healthcare needs of the soldiers in “the box.” The box involved 8-10 days of war games to include live fire, parachute jumps, demolition, and reconnaissance maneuvers.

Participating countries included Spain, France, Greece, Great Britain, Italy, France, Germany, Egypt, Kuwait, USA, and 20 others observing the exercise. There was a total of >70,000 coalition troops with 23,000 US Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, & Marines.

I was supported by 11 excellent 91M's: NCOIC SFC Howard Delong (Benning), SSG John Hamelin (Campbell), SSG Virdie Misa (Gordon), SPC Velma Sanders (Benning-Cadre), SPC Kimberly Walker (Stewart), SPC Jason Shoemaker (Walter Reed), SPC Kristine Sawyer (Jackson), SPC William Robinson (Benning), PFC Mildred Trent (Stewart), PFC Sharon Johnson (Gordon), and PFC Ariana Arriaga (Benning).

We fed 1-5 inpatients daily. Most diets were regular but we did have some cardiac, soft, low carbohydrate, and low protein. We served ~180 soldiers at breakfast and ~220 at dinner. I saw ~25 patients in nutrition classes, ~10 outpatients, and ~10 inpatients. Outpatient diagnoses included type 2 diabetes, pregnancy, obesity, GERD, HTN, gluten sensitive enteropathy, and gastritis. Inpatient diagnoses included abdominal pain, type 1 diabetes, kidney stones, cardiac, GERD, diarrhea, and poor appetite. Interestingly, the type 1 diabetic patients were all Kuwait soldiers.

I provided 2 nutrition classes for hospital staff and outpatients to include a weight loss class and an Ephedra supplement class. These classes were offered twice a week and were held in our dining tent. For the 91M, I provided a class on diabetes, cardiac nutrition, and dangerous diet supplements.

We “catered” a couple promotion ceremonies, birthdays, and guests. Catering merely involved providing a shelf-stable cake or MRE, but it was appreciated nonetheless. We had guest servers, which included the command staff, OR staff, and some French soldiers. We went on a couple field trips to the German and French kitchens and offered tours of our kitchen to the Germans, French, and Egyptians.

Being in Egypt was an awesome experience for me. We were supporting an overall mission to improve relations between forces around the globe. With the uprising threat of terrorism striking our world, to be in a situation that fostered peace and coalition building was an honor. Seeing the pyramids was an awesome experience too! For additional information, please see the AAR on the SP Corps Web Page.

Department of Health Education and Training

By LTC Roderick Kuwamoto
SP DHET

PPSCP Courses

This year's PPSCP Program is off and running. Courses held this year have been exceptional! Kudos to all the Project Officers! There are PPSCP courses remaining this FY, remember to fax your 3838's quickly if you plan on attending. Be sure to include your fax number and E-mail address, so that I can send your fund cite without delay. Remember you are only authorized one centrally funded PPSCP course per FY, so plan accordingly!

Remaining PPSCP Courses for FY 02:

Advanced Nutrition Support In Force Health Protection, A0630
Dates: JAN 28-FEB 01, 02
Location: AMEDD Center and School, Ft. Sam Houston, TX
Project Officer: MAJ Holje, DSN: 471-3376 Comm. (210) 221-

European Physician Assistant Refresher Course, A0625
Date: FEB 20-24, 02
Location: Pommersfelden, Germany
Project Officer 1LT Gilliam DSN 355-8427

Management of Burns and Multiple Trauma for OT and PT, A0608
Date: MAR 18-MAR 22, 02
Location: AMEDD Center and School, Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX
Project Officer: CPT Chapman, DSN 429-1440

Advanced Physical Therapy Course on Evaluation and Treatment of the Spine, A0628
Dates: APR 15-19, 02
Location: AMEDD Center and School, Ft. Sam Houston, TX
Project Officer: LTC Timothy Flynn DSN: 471-8410 Comm (210) 221

Joint Field Nutrition Operations Course, A0619
Date: MAY 2-10, 02
Location: Camp Bullis, TX
Project Officer: CPT North DSN 471-3284 Comm (210) 221-

Management of Combat Stress Casualties, A0620
Dates: MAY 13- MAY 24, 02
Location: Camp Bullis, TX
Project Officer: MAJ Harrison-Weaver, DSN 471-1440

Evaluation and Treatment of Upper Extremity Conditions, A0609
Date: AUG 19-30, 02
Location: Ft. Bragg, NC
Project Officer: MAJ Harvey DSN: 337-7383 Comm: (910) 907-7383

Col Kersey Neuromusculoskeletal Evaluation Course, A0606
Date: SEP 09-20, 02
Location: Ft. Sam Houston, TX
Project Officer: MAJ Lowe DSN: 471-7528 Comm: (210) 221-7528

Mary Lipscomb Hamrick Research Course, A0614
Date: **(Cancelled this FY)**
Location: Natick, MA
Project Officer: LTC Creedon DSN 256-4286 Comm (508) 233-

Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Basic Skills Course
A0627D JAN 07-JAN 18, 02
A0627E MAR 04-MAR 15, 02
Location: Madigan Army Medical Center, Ft. Lewis, WA
Project Officer: CPT Rios DSN 782-0611 Comm (206) 969-
(Courses are full)

Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Basic Skills Course
A0627F JAN 27-FEB 09, 02
A0627E MAR 31-APR 13, 02
Location: Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, TX
Project Officer: CPT Stevens/CPT Goodwiler DSN 429-4626
Comm (210) 916-
(Course is full)

For questions on any of these courses contact the listed project officer or me.

Applying for the LTHET Program?

By the time this issue of the Medallion is published the FY02/AY03 LTHET message will have been released <http://fshtx.army.mil/DHET/initial.htm>. SP Officers interested in applying for an LTHET program should carefully follow the instructions on the message and submit their applications to me NLT **01 April 02**.

Frequently asked questions about the LTHET Program:

1. I'm thinking about applying for the Specialist Corps LTHET program. How and where do I begin?

Review the Specialist Corps LTHET announcement released <http://fshtx.army.mil/DHET/initial.htm> December or January of each year.

The announcement includes information on general eligibility requirements, qualifying degree programs, specialty training programs, and application procedures.

2. I would eventually like to apply for the LTHET program. When should I begin my application process?

The time to begin is now. Finding the right time to return to school requires extensive planning. PCS moves, family commitments, and military and professional education all play a part in your career

(Continued on page 14)

Physician Assistant Section

By LTC Louis H. Smith
Chief, Physician Assistant Section

Promotion Board Results

Congratulations to LTC(P) William Tozier, the FIRST active duty Army PA to be selected for Colonel. LTC Tozier has a sequence number of 2, which means we should be seeing his promotion by early Spring. This is great news and represents years of hard work and effort on his part.

Awards

CPT James Schumacher, PA-C, currently a company commander with the 261st Area Support Medical BN at Ft Bragg, has been nominated for the prestigious McArthur Leadership Award. It is very seldom that you see an SP officer considered, we are very proud of his nomination and wish CPT Schumacher the best and hope that he is selected as a finalist.

Physician Assistant Readiness and Recertification Preparation Symposium 6H-A0626

The annual Readiness and Recertification Course will be held at Fort Sam Houston February 25- March 1. The message announcing the conference has been sent out and is also posted on the PA web page. This conference is for those active duty PA's who will be taking their NCCPA Recertification examination during CY02. The second priority of attendance is for those PA's who will be in assignments where they will not be able to obtain CME. The conference will provide approximately 30 hours of Category I CME for each participant. Contact MAJ Albert or CPT Soliz if you wish to apply for central funding or have questions concerning the course @ anne.albert@cen.amedd.army.mil, bill.soliz2@cen.amedd.army.mil DSN 471-8219.

Typically there have been more requests for attendance than spaces allow, so this year we have come up with a couple of innovative ways to provide these CME classes to those who cannot attend. A live Satellite broadcast will be transmitted of the classes on February 26-27. This will be worth 10 hours of Cat I CME approved by the AAPA. Any post, camp or station with the ability to receive satellite broadcast s can participate without cost. Contact MAJ Anne Albert at DSN 471-8219 for more information

Also a distant learning (DL) project is underway in which we hope to provide approximately 25 hours of CME to any PA who wants to participate. This DL project is a CD/web based program containing numerous lectures from the resident conference. It will allow you to listen to the lecture and take a then take a test. Those successfully passing each test will be given CME credit. The expected release of the CD is the end of April 02. More details will follow as the project is completed.

Annual European CME Conference

The Society of European PA's (SEPA) conference will be held this year from February 20-24, 2002 at Pommersfelden Germany. LT Phillip Gilliam, along with MAJ Tom Haigler, LT Mo Beard and LT Ronny Bigham has been working very hard to put things together this year to make it successful. I'll have more information on this conference in the next newsletter.

Society of Army PA's Annual CME Conference

This year the SAPA conference will be held from April 23-27, 2002 in Fayetteville, NC. The 4th Annual Scientific Poster Presentation will be held in conjunction with the conference during the same week. This is an opportunity for any PA who has conducted research, written a paper, or is involved in an interesting project to present their work. There is a substantial cash prize for the top three winning posters along with the opportunity to showcase PA's in practice, which makes it worthwhile to prepare and submit a poster. For more information go to the SAPA website at www.sapa.org.

Long Term Health Education/Training (LTHET)

The LTHET announcement for the FY02 selection board has been released and can be found on the PA web page. I have already received a number of Faxes from PA's who are applying for residency training. If you are interested in applying, you must first contact me to discuss your plans.

The competition for each program is keen, so it is imperative that each applicant insures that his/her packet is properly prepared and submitted on time. The letter of intent is critical and must be written in such a way as to convey to the board why you should be selected. It must speak to your potential and the potential benefits for you and the Army if you are selected.

NCCPA Certification

We are finally to the point where over 99.6% of all active duty PA's have their NCCPA certification. I continually talk to our PA students to remind them that the requirement exists for them to take and pass the certification examination. But let us not forget that we all have a requirement to continuously maintain that certification throughout our entire Federal service. This includes not only renewing the certification every two years but also successfully passing the PA National Recertification Exam (PANRE) every 6th year.

Certification is tracked very closely on an annual basis in cooperation with the NCCPA. It is imperative that we keep close track on certification to insure that this standard is maintained. With the database that has been implemented we are assured of

(Continued on page 10)

Tri-service Efforts Leads to Valuable Training and Research in Rural Honduras

By CPT Ronna Winn, R.D. (Fort Huachuca, AZ) and 1LT Richard Komurek (JTF—Bravo, Honduras)

A field training experience in humanitarian assistance proved anything but the ordinary for a recent group of Army, Air Force and Navy medical personnel TDY to Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras, home of Joint Task Force Bravo. The mission is a recurrent exercise to accompany the Humanitarian Assistance Course offered to the Pediatric residents of Wilford Hall, a joint service program. The most recent mission of 9-17 November 2001 was exceptional in that nutrition research projects were added to the mission for a rich experience of tri-service partnership and training.

The team consisted of 6 pediatric residents, 2 pediatric staff members and 3 International Health Specialists from Wilford Hall's Pediatric Center; 3 U.S. Army Dietitians from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center and the University of Washington doctoral program, and one fourth year Navy USUHS student (Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences.). Their objective was data collection and "hands on" care in a setting of real humanitarian need in preparation for their wartime missions.

The group of 15 broke into smaller groups of 3-4 persons each day and traveled from Soto Cano Air Base to the La Paz region of Honduras, approximately 1 1/2-2 hours in each direction. This area was selected by the Honduran Health Ministry for its particular susceptibility to malnutrition and healthcare needs. From La Paz the team hiked to randomly, pre-selected households to conduct the research. "We gathered information about the households such as food resources, education levels and evaluated children for anemia using a field hemoglobin analyzer, said commander LTC Julia Lynch, USA, Chief resident of pediatrics from Wilford Hall and commander of the mission. "This is a region where the Honduran Health Ministry felt there was significant malnutrition and we've seen substantial cases of both acute and chronic malnutrition."

The first research project was led by MAJ Karen Geisler, R.D., currently a doctoral student from the University of Washington. The goal was to assess the vitamin A content of sugar collected at the household level and compare it to the established fortification standards. Vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of blindness in underdeveloped countries. Results of the analyses were pending at

press time.

The second research project was led by MAJ Teri Kemmer, Ph.D., R.D. and consultant for the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) from the Department of Military Emergency Medicine at USUHS. The study focused on children between the ages of 6 months to 5 years to determine the severity and prevalence of malnutrition. Anthropometric data collected include height/length, weight and mid upper arm circumference (MUAC). Hemoglobin was also obtained using a field hemoglobin analyzer to assess for anemia. After initial training, the researchers were also testing the electronic, hand-held data collection methods in a field environment to determine their durability and reliability.

After three full days of surveying, the team of 15 dedicated one full day for providing health care to the children of Santa Ana, La Paz's central village, by setting up a clinic in a local school. At the makeshift clinic the Honduran Health Ministry provided a class in general health care and sanitation and the U.S. personnel provided health exams, vitamins and medications to the families. The physicians encountered children with some common ailments such as diarrhea, respiratory infections, colds, fever and asthma. There were also cases of significant malnutrition, parasites, pneumonia, juvenile arthritis and nephrotic syndrome.

The unique combination of conducting door-to-door research and providing medical care left team members with an unforgettable experience and a new appreciation of life and medical care in the United States. Even "veteran" participants of humanitarian assistance missions found themselves affected by the experience. Air Force Tech Sgt. Rodney Pierce, an international health specialist on his fourth mission to Honduras says of his combined MEDRETE missions to Central and South America over the past several years, "it's changed my life forever. It made me realize that I'm blessed to be an American and it's changed my life for the better."

The research continues in the Spring of 2002. The next mission aims to continue comparing "wet" and "dry" season nutritional markers to assess fluctuations, if any, in nutritional status of these children.

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY TO SP PA'S
(4 February marks the day that Army PA's were first commissioned into the AMSC)

Physician's Assistant Section (con't)

(Continued from page 8)

100% accuracy, which to our credit is something no other AOC in the AMEDD can claim.

Once you renew or recertify and receive the certificate from the NCCPA, mail/FAX a copy to PERSCOM so that your records can be updated. This is especially important if you are receiving Board Certification Pay (BCP), as your BCP will be stopped until you provide MAJ Gross with the updated copy of your certification.

Recruiting the PA's of the Future

The new prerequisites have made it more difficult for many soldiers to obtain the necessary college credits so they may submit their applications. No doubt the fact that commissioned officers are now applying may have influenced some enlisted soldiers to not even attempt to apply. We have to make sure that our soldiers understand that this program is primarily an enlisted commissioning program and that the commissioned officers are applying under a three-year test period.

We need good, qualified, talented young soldiers to put their packets in for selection to this program. We continue to look to the enlisted soldiers as the future of our profession. It is up to every Army PA out there to encourage these soldiers to think about a career as a physician assistant. For many it will be that once in a lifetime opportunity that they will get nowhere else.

MAJ Bruce McLennan and CPT Bill Soliz have been visiting various posts around the country to brief prospective PA candidates on the program. This is in an effort to stimulate the number of packets that are submitted, plus answer questions about the program. There have been very large turnouts at the places that they have visited. They will be visiting Ft Bragg, Ft Gordon, Hawaii and several other posts following the first of the new year.

Our future is the enlisted soldiers of today. We must

be diligent in our search for those individuals who possess the required prerequisites, motivation and desire to become an Army PA. It is the responsibility of every Army PA to find those prospective candidates who will be the PA's of the future.

The FY 02 message from USAREC is out and can be found on the web site listed below. The USAREC message compliments AR 601-20, The Interservice Physician Assistant Program that was released in August 2000. Applicants will need **both** the USAREC message and AR 601-20 in order to complete the application process. AR 601-20 can be found on the Army Printing Agency website: www.usapa.army.mil/; FY02 USAREC message: www.usarec.army.mil/news/paqual13.htm

If you have questions call MAJ Bruce McLennan, PA at DSN 536-0386, commercial (502) 626-0386 or 1-800-223-3735, extension 60386. Email: bruce.mclennan@usarec.army.mil

Remember that college courses completed via Distance Learning are acceptable for credit at the University of Nebraska. If every Army PA out there can find one soldier who meets the qualifications and submits an application we would have over 500 applicants.

Operational Medicine CD

We have obtained a new CD, Operational Medicine, 2001 NAVPUBMED 5139. This CD is a collaborative effort between USSOCOM and the US Navy, which puts on to one disk a wide ranging collection of books, manuscripts and discussions of topics related to operational medicine. It is web based with multiple links to service specific, governmental, public and educational web sites.

So far we have been able to distribute these CDs to about half of the active duty PA's with our goal being to provide one to each PA in the force. If you have not received yours yet, please contact either MAJ Albert or CPT Soliz.

Dietitian Section

(Continued from page 5)

ing ease the congestion in the main servery. In an effort to think outside the box the leadership at NCD, WRAMC has contracted an executive chef. Mr. Ted Stolk, born, educated and trained in Europe has provided a refreshingly different view of how to run the operation and ideas to improve almost every aspect of food service. One of the projects he is looking at is completely reorganizing the workforce to maximize the flow of work as well as define responsibilities and accountability. While not all of his ideas have come to fruition, every suggestion that he has brought forward has caused the staff to stop, think, reevaluate and just plain ask a lot of questions that we haven't addressed before. His hard work, insight, imagination, and sound business acumen have made his addition to the staff one of the most cost effective contracts ever at WRAMC.

COL Standage, C, NCD at Madigan reports that the Madigan Nutrition Express (in house take out) opened 5 December 01. A hospital wide "Name That Place" Contest was held. Over 100 creative names were submitted. A non-NCD committee voted the 100 names down to the top 4. The top 4 were voted to one by individual balloting in the Dining Facility. Coca Cola representative provided free 20 oz bottles of Diet Lemon Coke to the first 120 individuals with purchased sandwiches. Lots of good comments by the MAMC staff and lots of hard work by NCD Staff – MSG Wamsley, SFC Lewellyn, SSG Thomas, Mr. Parker, Ms. Harp, Ms. LA Penna, Mr. Dey, Ms. Sandle and many more. Grand opening to take place at a later date with flourishes and fanfare.

SP's In The News

Congratulations to the following individuals for their recent accomplishments!!

Order of Military Medical Merit

Korea: LTC Beverly Patton
Ft. Sam Houston: LTC Maria Worley

Army Commendation Medal

BAMC: MAJ Christine Edwards served as the BAMC Project Officer for the 2001 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Final contributions were \$183,573.71 or 136% of BAMC's financial goal. She received an ARCOM for her excellent leadership.

LTC George Dilly, MAJ Christine Edwards, SGM Joey Collins, SFC James Daoust, and SPC Tanya Herrera received ARCOMs for their roles in renovation.

Army Achievement Medal

MAMC: CPT Joseph Frost--AAM for his support to Ft. Irwin during JCAHO

Korea: SPC Richard Jack was awarded an Army Achievement Medal for his activities in the Color Guard during the visit of the Army Surgeon General, and the groundbreaking for the new hospital.

Certification

MAMC: LT Hilary Harper-Nutrition Support

Congratulations to the following for passing their Occupational Therapy National Certification Exam:

LT Joanna Atherton
LT Julie Pavlish
SPC Julie Hay
SPC Charles Mike
SPC Nilda Lugo
SPC Winston Miles
SPC David Paz

Congratulations to the following two officers for passing the National Hand Certification Exam:

CPT James Staeben
CPT Teresa Brininger

Graduations

Ft. Jackson: SPC Kathia McConnico graduated PLDC

Congratulations to the OT's who Graduated from the MAMC Internship Program:

LT Sean Smith
LT Michelle Kinsler

Promotions

Ft. Campbell: 1LT Robin Jarrell was promoted to CPT

BAMC: SGT Gregory Adams, SPC Diana Camacho, SPC Matthew Fredricksen, and SPC Tanya Herrera were selected for promotion. PFC Curtis Mensch was promoted to SPC on 1 Dec.

MAMC: 1LT Joseph Frost to CPT

WRAMC: 2LT Emily Tarleton promoted to 1LT
2LT Christopher Gerogiana promoted to 1LT

Korea: PV2 Karen McKinnon was promoted to PFC, and PFC Sang Han was promoted to Specialist. SGT Alexander Cruz (now PCS'd to WRAMC), was selected for E-6 by the promotion board.

Ft. Jackson: 2LT Jason Woodward was promoted to 1LT.

WAMC: 2LT Angela Briscoe was promoted to 1LT, PFC Gerardo Cruz and PFC Deanna McCraw were promoted to SPC.

West Point: SSG Nigel Morris was promoted to SFC and PFC Christopher Green was promoted to SPC.

Publications

WRAMC: CPT Bannon published an article that was published in OT Advance, "OT at ground Zero: The Pentagon, A Soldier's Story", was selected as a top ten article for 2001.

Selections

Ft. Sam Houston: Congratulations to MAJ Sandra Harrison-Weaver for her selection as an Item Writer for the National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapy.

WRAMC: Congratulations to Dr. Anne Burke for her selection on the editorial board for AJOT.

WRAMC: The following OT's presented a poster session during the December Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Conference, Denver, CO on "The History of Upper Extremity Splinting", Lenhart, Martha, LTC, MC, Ph.D., Amaker, Robinette J. LTC, SP, OTR/L, PhD, CHT, Clasing, Jay, CPT, SP, OTR/L, Smurr, Lisa, 1LT, SP, OTR/L.

Births

BAMC: Congratulations to MAJ Cynthia Gorczyca who gave birth to a baby girl (Lauren) in October

WRAMC: Congratulations to MAJ Lorie Sydes on the birth of her twin boys

(Continued on page 12)

SP's In The News (cont.)

(Continued from page 11)

PCS/ETS

Ft. Hood: MSG John Oates is on terminal leave and officially retires the end of Feb 02. He is retiring to the San Antonio area. We had a grand farewell for him after our JCAHO inspection in Nov 01. Thanks to those that contributed to his retirement

The following Army Dietitians will ETS in the next 3-6 months. Best wishes in the future and thanks for a job well done:

1LT (P) Susan Stunja - BAMC

1LT Andrew Brown - Ft Hood MEDDAC

CPT Lori Ines, Tripler Army Medical Center

CPT Amanda Sylvie, Tripler Army Medical Center

1LT Leah Usher, Martin Army Comm. Hospital, Ft Benning

1LT Molly Haynes, WBAMC

MAJ Ruth Holje, Nutrition Care Branch, AMEDD C&S

Miscellaneous

BAMC: SFC Mario Gonzales earned the prestigious U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center "COL William F. McManus, MD" Award for Clinical Excellence for 200. Award criteria were professionalism, clinical expertise, caring, impact on patient care. SFC Gonzales commitment to burn patient's earn him a three day pass, name to the burn center clinical excellence plaque, Army Achievement Medal and TDY to the annual American Burn Association Conference.

BAMC NCD started a major renovation project in June. We continued to serve patients and 80% of the usual dining facility customers out of three different Grab and Go sites. Despite all the changes, our satisfaction survey results exceeded the MEDCOM dining facility benchmarks for food quality, overall service, courteousness, and hot temperatures. The new BAMC dining room opened on 20 December at the dinner meal.

WRAMC: WRMC NCD Support for 47th CSH JRTC, Ft. Polk, LA--19 Nov-21 Dec 01. MAMC Support-CPT Frost, SFC Llewellyn, SSG David Partridge, SGT Jocelyn Glicco. Lots of great

Occupational Therapy Section (con't)

(Continued from page 2)

The education work-group is looking to standardize some of the clinical and military core competencies within each BH discipline as a force multiplier. Development of these core competencies will occur through our internship education programs, continuing education courses, and technology or distance learning to utilize a far range of resources and making these resources available Army wide. Some examples of shared competencies include, but are not limited to: fitness for duty assessments, suicide assessments and prevention, disaster response and command consultation. COL Rice represents OT's interests within this group. As she retires this summer, I will need an OT to continue to support this dynamic work-group.

The clinical service work-group sees clinical practice as moving in the direction of an outreach or prevention model. As is done in combat stress control units and recently at the Pentagon in response to the 9/11 attacks, we as BH professionals need to go to the customer to see how they are doing instead of waiting for them to come see us. This is one way to establish a relationship and trust with people who may indeed need further BH intervention. Prevention becomes relationship based instead of psycho education/screening instrument based. Another goal of this group is to develop the use of a BH "screen" at the unit level. Some CSC units now provide education to unit combat life savers in identifying operational stress and this could be extended to other 91W's and serve as a method to recognize those in need of BH treatment. The last goal is to provide BH in primary care to screen for "at-risk" soldiers. The bi-modal

curve of suicides was discussed. Suicides peak at two different age groups, early in a soldier's career when going through rapid transitions from BCT to AIT and first duty station and then again later in life and career. BH professionals are changing their strategy on how to intervene and overcome this problem. CPT Newton represents OT's interests in this work-group.

The policy work-group is working on life-skills development, integration of BH systems and programs, health maintenance, BH standards of care, force health protection and soldier readiness. The behavioral health regulation is being updated and as I am a member of this work-group, will ensure that OT is written into this reg. As you can see this is quite an undertaking for behavior health, but it is an exciting and necessary change we all need to make.

The next meeting is scheduled for April at the academy and I look forward to having more OT representatives at this next meeting. It is clear that OT can be and is a player in many of these initiatives and what we identified as goals for Project Paratus is right on target with the rest of the behavioral health team.

In Closing

1. You are doing a great job in getting your license to me, keep up the good work in continuing to keep them coming!

(Continued on page 13)

U.S. Army-Baylor Graduate Program Physical Therapy

By LTC Timothy Flynn
Associate Professor and Director
Army-Baylor Physical Therapy Program

1. MG Kevin Kiley, CDR AMEDD Center & School approved the decision paper to move the U.S. Army-Baylor Graduate Program in Physical Therapy from 18 months in length to 27 months in length culminating in the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The proposal is now under review at Baylor University.
2. In the area of research a number of peer-reviewed manuscripts, abstracts, and texts were published by the Army-Baylor PT Faculty over the past several months:
 - Fritz JM, Wainner RS. Examining diagnostic tests: an evidence-based perspective. *Phys Therapy*. 2001;81:1546-1564
 - Fitzgerald GK, Lephart SM, Hwang JH, Wainner RS. Hop tests as predictors of dynamic knee stability. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther*. Oct 2001.
 - Wainner RS, Flynn TW, Whitman J. Spinal & Extremity Manipulation: The Basic Skill Set for Physical Therapists- CDROM. Distributed by OPTP, 2001.
 - Flynn TW: "Thoracic Spine & Ribcage Dysfunction," in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Secrets. Edited by Boyce & Placzek, Hanley & Belfus, Philadelphia, PA, 2001.
 - Flynn TW, Wainner RS, Whitman J. Immediate effects of thoracic spine manipulation on cervical range of motion and pain. *Journal of Manual and Manipulative Therapy*, 9: 2001.
 - Whitman J, Flynn TW, Fritz J, Magel J, Rendeiro D, Butler B, Wainner RS, Allison S. Does manual therapy experience influence reliability for selected pelvic girdle tests and measures? *Journal of Manual and Manipulative Therapy*, 9: 2001.
 - In addition, all 5 of the Class of 2001 research projects were presented at the 2001 Fall Conference of the Texas Physical Therapy Association.
 - LTC Tim Flynn and LtCol(Sel) Rob Wainner were the keynote speakers for the research section of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy.

3. During her 1st clinical affiliation, Army-Baylor student 2LT Tiffany Nolin received the Commanders Coin for her exceptional work organizing a Health Fair for the MP Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

4. MAJ Lynne Lowe continued her tremendous service and commitment as Chair of the Central District of the Texas Physical Therapy Association.

5. LTC Tim Flynn was appointed as an editorial board member of the *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT)*, one of the top 3 rehabilitation journals internation-

ally.

6. The Physical Therapy Technician (N9) Critical Task Selection list was approved. This supports the transformation of the Physical Therapy Technician program to have an even greater focus on so soldier injury management and prevention with particular emphasis on therapeutic exercise. Thanks for all the input from the field.

7. The N9 faculty continues to excel. SFC Janell Holt successfully completed the ANCOC course and was named honor graduate. SFC Bernadette Henderson successfully completed the ANCOC. SSG Tanya Jones successfully completed her Bachelors of Science Degree.

8. PT's interested in the **Advanced Physical Therapy Course on Evaluation and Treatment of The Spine (ATRRS NUMBER: 6H-A0628)** please submit your DA3838 ASAP to LTC Kuwamoto at Health Education and Training. His phone number is 210-221-9428. The course dates are 15-19 APR 02 at the AMEDD C&S, Fort Sam Houston, TX..

Occupational Therapy Section (con't)

(Continued from page 12)

2. Remember CPT Montz in your thoughts as he deployed in December in support of Enduring Freedom. He is utilizing many of his clinical skills to include CSC, UE Evaluation and Amputee care.

3. Nominations are being accepted for this years Myra McDaniels Writer Award. This is a nice way to be recognized for your hard earned efforts in publishing for the profession, so submit your writings to MAJ Harrison-Weaver by 15 February. The SOP for this award is on the SP website under awards.

As we start off this New Year let us continue to Aim high-For there is little virtue in easy victory.

—Sir Edmund Hillary

(First man to successfully summit Mount Everest.)



Department of Health Education and Training (con't)

(Continued from page 7)

development. You should consider all of these factors in planning for a graduate or specialty training program. Identify an academic or specialty program you are interested in and discuss your plans with your supervisor and/or AOC Consultant. Degree programs offered will vary, depending on the current and projected needs of the Corps. Remember the application and selection process begins more than a year before the program begins. The sequence of events is as follows: the SP LTHET announcement is release in Dec/Jan. The application deadline is 1 April 2002. The SP LTHET selection board meets in May and the results are release in July/ Aug. Those selected begin their programs in Jul/Aug/Sep of the following year. Planning for the LTHET program should begin long before the release of the SP LTHET announcement.

3. The graduate program I am applying for does not require a GRE; do I still need to take the exam?

Yes, the GRE, along with your photo, ORB, OER's, and other supporting documents, are used by the board in determining the best candidates for degree programs. Remember that GRE scores up to 5 years old are acceptable for the boarding process. You do not need to take the GRE for specialty training programs.

4. I'm unable to provide a letter of acceptance from the university, as their acceptance committee will not meet until after the SP

LTHET Board.

If the university you are applying for is unable to provide a letter of acceptance, a letter from a university representative, stating you are competitive will suffice for your application packet.

5. I've heard that you can be removed from school if you are passed over for promotion. Is this correct?

Yes. Officers non-selected for promotion during the first year of training in a Masters Degree Program or during the first or second year of a Ph.D. Program will be terminated from training at the completion of the current semester. Officers non-selected in the last year of a masters or Ph.D. (75% completed) will be allowed to complete the program. Officers non-selected for promotion prior to the start of their LTHET program will not be allowed to begin their program

LTHET

Remember the deadline for all LTHET applications is **1 April, 2002** with the LTHET board meeting scheduled for the following month, May, 2002.

Those interested in any of the Long Term Health Education and Training Programs should have contacted me by now.

SP Monthly VTC Schedule

This is a tentative schedule. Changes will be forwarded as necessary. All VTC's are scheduled from 1400-1700 EST. The first session is from 1400-1530 EST and the second session is from 1530-1700 EST.

13 Feb 02 1. DT (65C) 1400-1600
 2. TBA

13 Mar 02 1. PA (65D)
 2. OT (65A)

10 Apr 02 1. PA (65D)
 2. Council of Colonels

21 May 02 1. OT (65A)
 2. PT (65B)

12 Jun 02 1. DT (65C)
 2. TBA

10 Jul 02 1. OT (65A)

2. PA (65D)

14 Aug 02 1. PT (65B)
 2. TBA

11 Sep 02 1. OT (65A)
 2. DT (65C)

9 Oct 02 1. PA (65D)
 2. TBA

19 Nov 02 1. OT (65A)
 2. PT (65B)

11 Dec 02 1. DT (65C)
 2. Council of Colonels

All questions concerning being added to the monthly SP VTC's should be directed to MAJ Woods at COM (210) 221-8306 or DSN 471. Email: yvette.woods@cen.amedd.army.mil.

SP's In The News (cont.)

(Continued from page 12)

compliments from the 47th Staff on the great NCD support. SFC Llewellyn, NCOIC NCD -47th CSG was part of the advance party. CPT Joseph Frost also served as Acting Company Commander during the exercise. Kudos to SSG Kevin Covey and SSG Alvin Thomas the only two military in production for the entire period and especially SSG Thomas who carried the Christmas Holiday production workload.

MAMC: CPT Michele D'Amico developed the "The Low Iodine Book" handout for Nuclear Medicine. It has received rave reviews from the Chief, Nuclear Medicine Service. Also the patients are much appreciative of written guidance and meal plans for individuals required to follow severe iodine restrictions prior to specialty nuclear medicine testing.

MAMC: Madigan Army Medical Center started a Dining Facility Advisory Council in Nov 01. NCD personnel meet with MAMC staff to provide and receive feedback on NCD operations and use this group to test new products items and policy changes.

Deployments

(Operation Bright Star) SSG John Hamelin returned from a 60 day deployment to Egypt

CPT Robert Montz deployed in December to support Operation Enduring Freedom

JCAHO

Ft. Campbell: Blanchfield Army Community Hospital was surveyed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations from 04-07 December 2001. The hospital received a preliminary score of 98. There were no findings within Nutrition Care Division.

SP Chief's Award of Excellence Recipients

CPT Matthew St. Laurent, (65A), was nominated by his Clinic Chief at DDEAMC. CPT St. Laurent demonstrated excellence by refining the provisions of the orthopedic occupational therapy section, resulting in increased staff productivity and efficiency by 22%. CPT St. Laurent developed several clinical documentation templates that exceeded JCAHO standards and minimized the loss of "hands-on" patient care. He organized a culturally unbiased, easy to read, educational booklet for commonly treated conditions in OT clinics. He also used strategic cost reducing, patient care justification to secure the approval of a "state of the art" piece of rehabilitation equipment in a time of dwindling financial resources. Currently, he is organizing a low cost, high return "Evaluation and Rehabilitation of the Shoulder" course providing an opportunity for Southeast Regional Medical Command occupational and physical therapist to develop and update their competence in required professional skills.

CPT Deydre Teyhen, (65B), was nominated by the Chief of PT at WRAMC. CPT Teyhen demonstrated excellence by establishing the new Musculoskeletal Center at Kimbrough Army Community Hospital. This center (which combined the Orthopedics, Podiatry, and Physical Therapy Services) has increased productivity over 50% and appointment availability by 25% while maintaining access standards 100% of the time without an increase in personnel. She received certification as a Director of Health Promotion through the Cooper Institute, an American College of Sports Medicine Health/Fitness instructor, certification in aquatic therapy, and her board spe-

cialization in Orthopedic Physical Therapy. CPT Teyhen encouraged the implementation of the red, white, and blue running shoe selection program at the Ft. Meade AAFES and Military Clothing Sales store and since it began, consultations to the clinic for running related knee pain have been reduced by 75%.

CPT Stephanie Meyer, (65C), was nominated by her hospital DCA. She demonstrated excellence in a number of ways. She wrote several articles for the Post newspaper and provided numerous educational services and programs for a variety of groups in the area. She coordinated a successful National Nutrition Month campaign to educate the Fort Eustis Community on the importance of a healthy lifestyle and eating pattern. CPT Meyer developed sites on the MEDDAC Web page and the intranet as additional forums to market health promotion. She developed a policy for nutrition screening and assessments, as well as an educational pamphlet on food-drug interactions to better comply with accreditation standards. Although busy serving as the Acting Company Commander for a six-week period during which JCAHO visited McDonald Army Community Hospital, her thoroughness and expertise in preparing the Nutrition Care Section allowed the section to come through the survey without any findings. She was also chosen to lead a Process Action Team, comprised of more senior officers, to improve inpatient medical record documentation for the hospital.



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The Medallion is published quarterly. Submissions may be directed to MAJ Woods at the above contact numbers at any time.

AMSC PRIDE

PRODUCTIVITY

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INTEGRITY

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